JUNGLE ACTION
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30¢
23
SEPT
02161
JUNGLE ACTION FEATURING:
THE BLACK PANTHER™
UP AGAINST THE WALL, THE PANTHER BATTLES AS NEVER BEFORE!
ON THE SAVAGE STREETS, THE MOST UNEXPECTED CHALLENGE OF ALL!

With the sleekness of a jungle beast, the Prince of Wakanda stalks both the concrete of the city and the undergrowth of the veldt, for when danger lurks he dons the garb of the savage cat from which he gains his name!

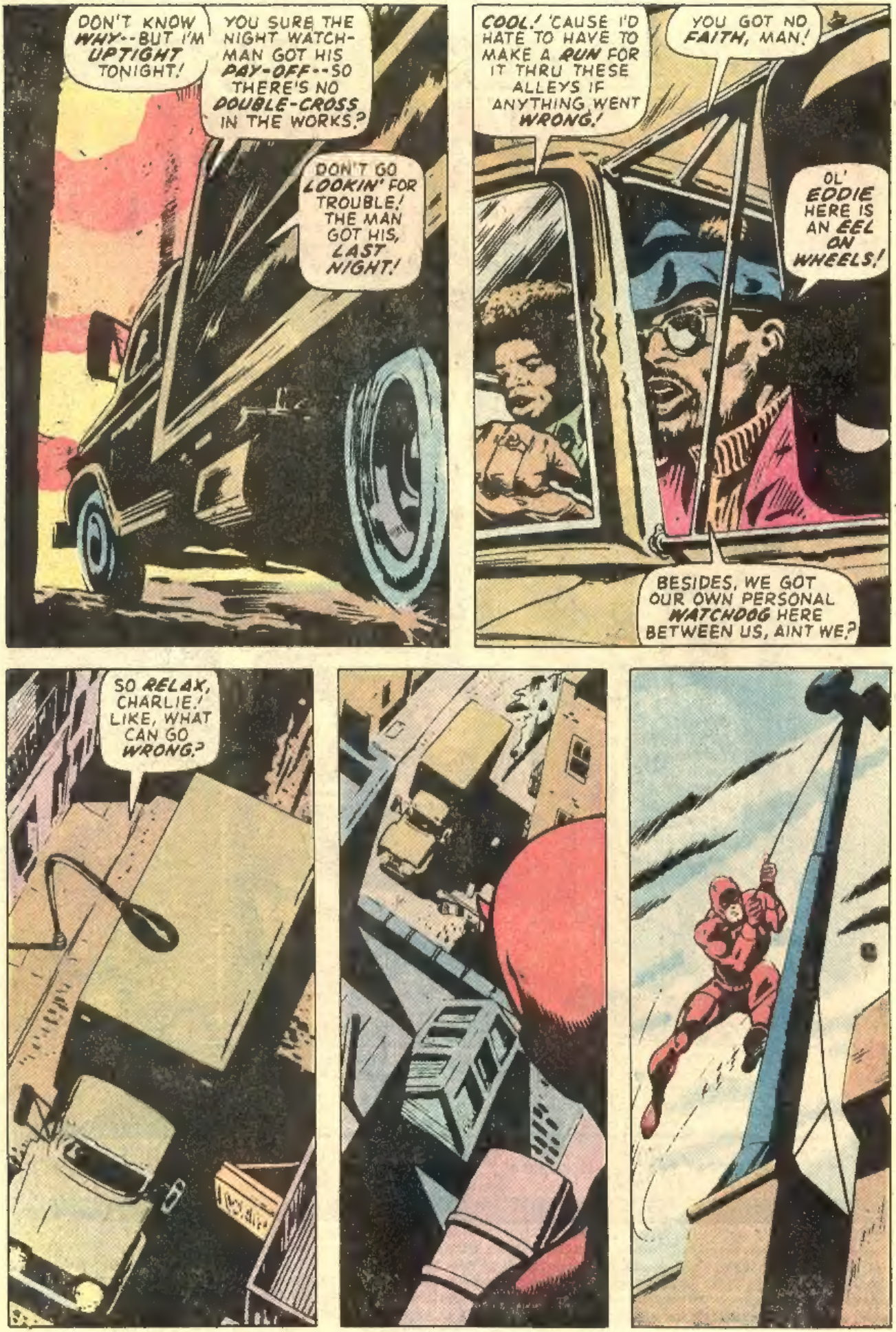
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE BLACK PANTHER!™

A LIFE ON THE LINE

HEY, WATCH IT ON THIS SIDE, MAN!
YOU GET ANY CLOSER OVER HERE, AND I'M GONNA GET A MOUTHFUL OF BRICK!
DON'T SWEAT IT! JUST KEEP IT DOWN--IF YOU DON'T WANT A MOUTHFUL OF FUZZ, INSTEAD--!
THE NIGHT HIDES MANY THINGS!
--THE STRANGLED SOB OF A HUNGRY CHILD!
--THE FAR-OFF PHANTOM MOAN OF A SPEEDING AMBULANCE!
--FROM SOMEWHERE, THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS--AND A WAILING, YET-UNHEEDED BURGLAR ALARM!
--AND, ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT IN THE HEART OF HARLEM, THE MUFFLED HUM OF A MOTOR--AS AN UNMARKED TRUCK THREADS ITS DEVIOUS PATH THRU THE INS AND OUTS OF A NARROW, SHADOWED ALLEY-WAY--!
--AND AS WE RE-PRESENT THIS CLASSIC TALE OF THE PANTHER--FROM DAREDEVIL #69!
IN OTHER WORDS, TRUE BELIEVERS, SORRY AS WE ARE TO SAY IT, THE DREADED DEAD-LINE DOOM HAS STRUCK AGAIN! SO SIT BACK AND ENJOY THIS BLAST FROM THE PAST, BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

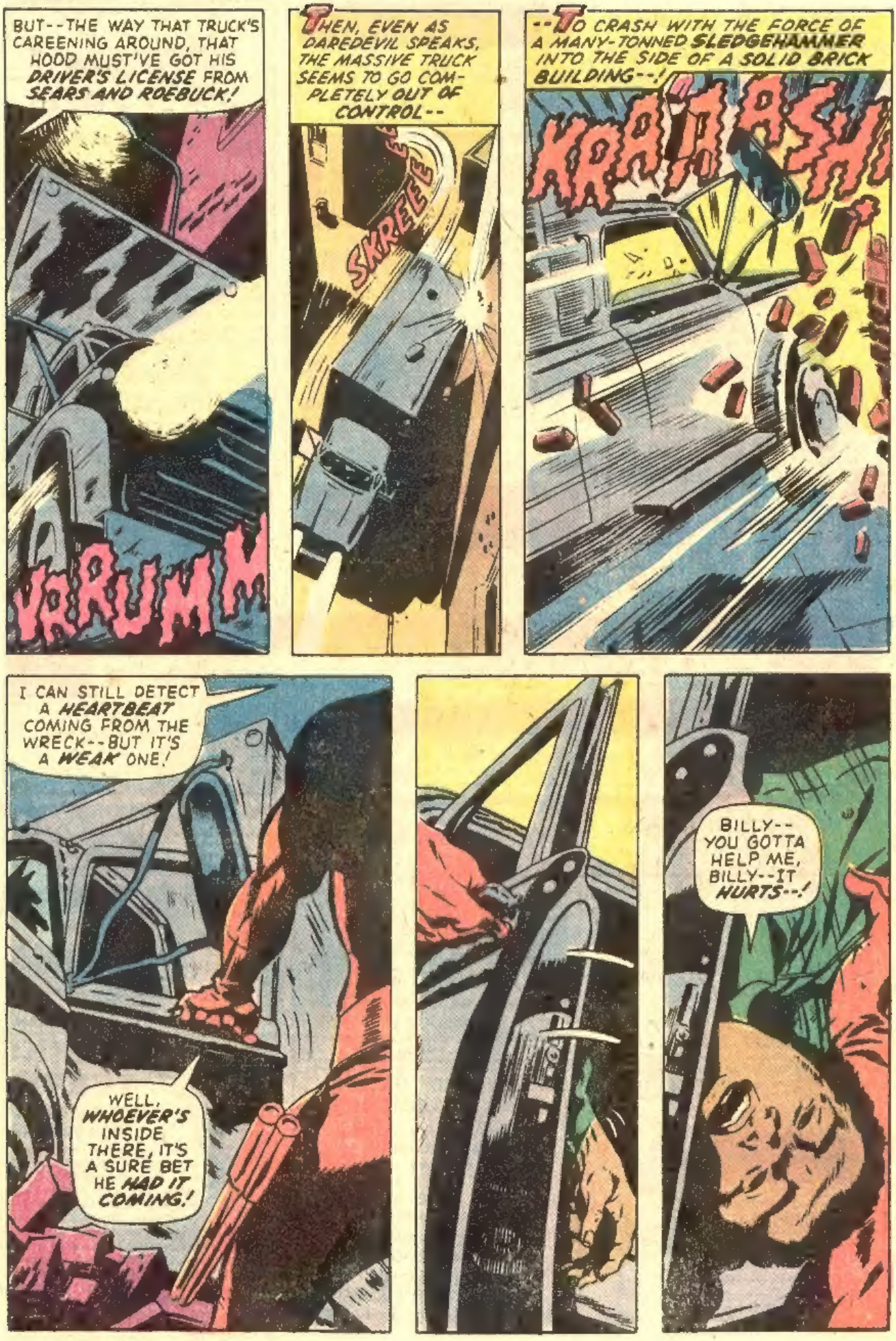
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • GENE COLAN ARTIST • SYD SHORES INKER • ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

JUNGLE ACTION™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published 7 times a year. Copyright © 1976 by Marvel Comics Group. A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 23, September, 1976 issue. Price 30¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $4.00 for 12 issues Canada, $5.00. Foreign, $6.00. Reprints courtesy of Magazine Management Inc. Copyright © 1970. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the United States of America. Scan by Fett !!


DON'T KNOW WHY--BUT I'M UPTIGHT TONIGHT!
YOU SURE THE NIGHT WATCH-MAN GOT HIS PAY-OFF--SO THERE'S NO DOUBLE-CROSS IN THE WORKS?
DON'T GO LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE! THE MAN GOT HIS, LAST NIGHT!
COOL! 'CAUSE I'D HATE TO HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT THRU THESE ALLEYS IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG!
YOU GOT NO FAITH, MAN!
OL' EDDIE HERE IS AN EEL ON WHEELS!
BESIDES, WE GOT OUR OWN PERSONAL WATCHDOG HERE BETWEEN US, AINT WE?
SO RELAX, CHARLIE! LIKE, WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

COAST CLEAR, BABY? I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN' JUST NOW!
IT'S CLEAR! BUT GET A MOVE ON, WILLYA?
I DON'T LIKE THIS SET-UP! IT'S TOO RISKY!
LISTEN TO THE MAN! TAKES OUR DOUGH, AND THEN STARTS GRIPIN'!
SERVE 'IM RIGHT IF WE TOOK OUR BREAD BACK-- AND GRABBED THE STUFF FOR FREE!
THEY SAY THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE, FELLA--
--INCLUDING A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE STATE PEN!
KRAASH!!
HOLY CRUD! IT'S-- DAREDEVIL!
I TOLD YOU I HEARD SOMETHIN', MAN! I TOLD YA!!

YOU FELLAS WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH BETTER DIALOGUE THAN THAT--OR I'LL DOZE OFF BEFORE I FINISH DUSTIN' YOU!
YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT THEM TWO AWAY FROM THE WARE-HOUSE, MASKED MAN, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED!
BUT I'M CLEAN UP TILL NOW--AND MY RECORD'S STAYIN' THAT WAY!
STACK 3
MMMFF!
WOP!
MISTER, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I HATE WORSE THAN A CROOK--
--IT'S A CROOK WITH A BADGE--ANY BADGE!
SNEAKING UP BEHIND ME, HUH? WELL, DON'T KNOCK YOURSELF OUT ON MY ACCOUNT, GUY!
KBONK!
...AND BABY MAKES THREE!
BT OK!
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO--UH-OH!
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD A LOOKOUT MAN IN THE TRUCK!
HE'S TAKING OFF--LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELSINKI!


BUT--THE WAY THAT TRUCK'S CAREENING AROUND, THAT HOOD MUST'VE GOT HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM SEARS AND ROEBUCK!
VRUMM
THEN, EVEN AS DAREDEVIL SPEAKS, THE MASSIVE TRUCK SEEMS TO GO COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL--
SKREEE
--TO CRASH WITH THE FORCE OF A MANY-TONNED SLEDGEHAMMER INTO THE SIDE OF A SOLID BRICK BUILDING--!
KRAI..ASH
I CAN STILL DETECT A HEARTBEAT COMING FROM THE WRECK--BUT IT'S A WEAK ONE!
WELL, WHOEVER'S INSIDE THERE, IT'S A SURE BET HE HAD IT COMING!
BILLY--YOU GOTTA HELP ME, BILLY--IT HURTS--!

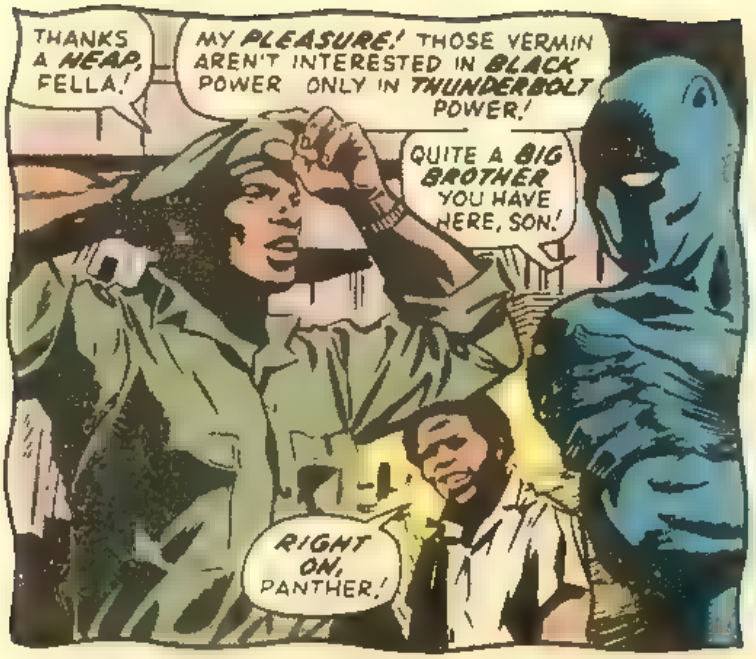
HE'S PASSED OUT!
BUT--HE'S JUST A KID--CAN'T BE OVER FIFTEEN!
HUH? NOW WHO THE DEVIL--?
I GUESS YOU CAN'T SEE ME SO WELL IN THE DARK, DAREDEVIL!
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN... THE BLACK PANTHER!
NOT LIKELY, OLD BUDDY! BUT JUST THIS MINUTE, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS KID!
SO DO I, DD! IN FACT, HE'S THE REASON I'M HERE!
BUT I'LL EXPLAIN LATER--AFTER WE'VE GOT THIS LAD SOME MEDICAL AID!
THEN, WHEN THE AFRICA-BORN AVENGER HAS HAILED AN OFF-DUTY TAXI BY THE UNIQUE METHOD OF LEAPING LEOPARD-LIKE ONTO ITS TOP...
HOP ABOARD, MY FRIEND! NEXT STOP--CITY HOSPITAL!
IF ONLY WE'RE NOT ALREADY TOO LATE! HIS PULSE IS--SO WEAK--!
...SURE WISH I KNEW HOW THE PANTHER FITS INTO ALL THIS!
RIGHT THIS WAY, INTERN! WE'RE OVERCROWDED... NO DOCTOR AVAILABLE JUST NOW!
EMERGENCY DESK
BUT WE'LL GET ONE... AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE INSTANT!
IF A LAYMAN'S EDUCATED GUESS MEANS ANYTHING, THAT KID NEEDS BOTH A DOCTOR... AND A MINOR MIRACLE!
I KNOW A TOP SURGEON WE MIGHT CALL--BUT HE DOESN'T COME CHEAP!
CALL HIM THEN! THE EXPENSE WILL BE MINE!

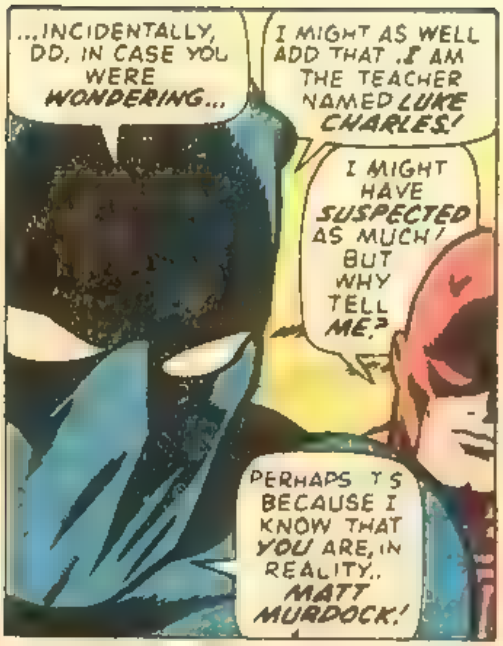
WILL YOU FEAST YOUR EVER-LOVIN'S ON THAT TALL, DARK SOUL BROTHER?
DAREDEVIL'S NOT EXACTLY CHOPPED LIVER HIMSELF--OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED?
MAYBE I SHOULD SET MY NURSE'S CAP FOR HIM... AND TELL MY GEORGIE TO GO TAKE A .747!
PHONE
OKAY, GIRL... SO WE MAKE IT A DOUBLE-RING CEREMONY!
HELLO... DR. KRAFT? THIS IS... MATT MURDOCK!
GOT AN EMERGENCY CASE DOWN HERE AT CITY... A YOUNGSTER HURT IN A CRASH... MAY TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE!
I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT THE D.A.'S OFFICE WOULD CONSIDER IT A FAVOR IF...
YOU WILL? AND HANG THE FEE?
YOU'RE ONE OF US, DOC... NOT TO MENTION A WALKING AD FOR THE A.M.A.!
I'VE GOT TO RUN, MYSELF... BUT SOMEBODY'LL BE HERE TO MEET YOU... FELLA BY THE NAME OF DAREDEVIL...!
AND, A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME LATER, AS ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST FAR-FAMED SURGEONS PREPARES FOR A DELICATE OPERATION...
YOU ARE STILL ON EDGE, MY FRIEND! WHAT IS IT?
A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET STRAIGHT, AVENGER!
WANT TO GO UP ON THE ROOF ...GET SOME AIR?
...I CAN'T SAY NOW, BUT I GOT A TIP THAT THAT WAREHOUSE WAS SET FOR A HIT TONIGHT!
THE WAY YOU SHOWED UP RIGHT ON CUE, I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU HAD THE SAME INFO! MIND TELLING ME HOW?
NONE OF IT IS AS IMPORTANT TO EITHER OF US AS THAT BOY'S LIFE...
BUT, SINCE TONIGHT HAS ALREADY ALL BUT COST ME MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE AVENGERS, I MIGHT AS WELL!
FOR, YOU SEE, I DID NOT ARRIVE ON CUE TONIGHT...
OR ELSE THAT BOY WOULD NOT BE LYING IN THERE RIGHT NOW... HIS LIFE IN THE BALANCE!

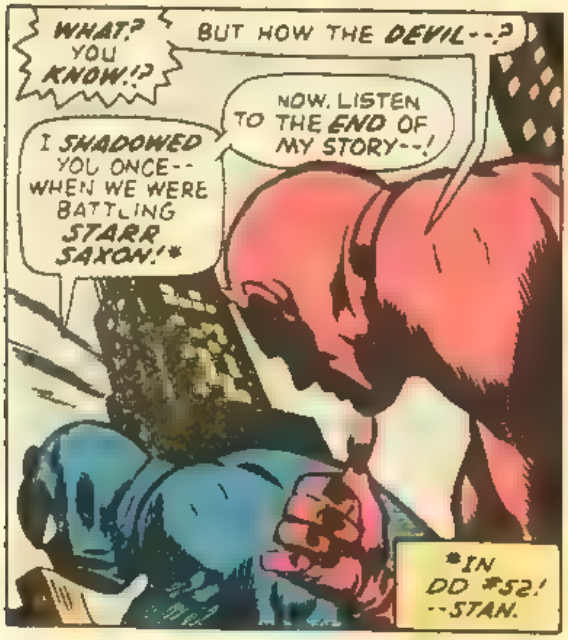
NO, I MOST DEFINITELY DID NOT ARRIVE ON CUE!
MY CUE WAS WEEKS AGO... AND, MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME, I MISSED IT!
"FOR, THE YOUTH ON THAT OPERATING TABLE IS NAMED LONNIE CARVER... AND HE USED TO BE THE BRIGHTEST STUDENT OF A TEACHER FRIEND OF MINE... ONE LUKE CHARLES....!
HEY, LONNIE! WHY THE WALL-TO-WALL SMILE?
DON'T TELL ME JAMES BROWN'S NEW 45 JUST HIT #1.!?
THAT AIN'T EVEN CLOSE, TEACH!
I JUST GOT THE WORD MY BROTHER BILLY'S COMIN' HOME FROM THE BIG BAD WAR--AND I'M TRIPPIN'!
HISTORY OF THE
"THE BLACK PANTHER ENTERS THE PICTURE SOME NIGHTS LATER... AS THE SOUND OF VIOLENT ARGUING DISTURBS A BRICK-STREWN PLAYGROUND...!
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT, CARVER? WE COULD USE A VET LIKE YOU!
SHOVE OFF, MAN! I DON'T DIG THE WAR ANY MORE THAN THE NEXT BROTHER...
BUT I FIGURE THERE'S BETTER WAYS TO PROTEST IT THAN TO JOIN A HATE-CREW LIKE YOU "THUNDER-BOLTS"!
NOBODY WITH HALF A BRAIN IS GONNA FALL FOR THAT "WHITE MAN'S WAR" JAZZ YOU GUYS PREACH!
YEAH? WELL, WE AIN'T HEARD FROM LONNIE, YET? WHAT SAY, MAN?
I STAND WITH BILLY!
NOW YOU'VE HEARD FROM HIM!
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST FLAKE OFF, SO THAT--
UNNNHN!
WOK!
YOU AIN'T WITH US, CARVER--SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE AGAINST US!
AND HERE'S WHAT THE THUNDER-BOLTS DO TO AN UNCLE TOM!

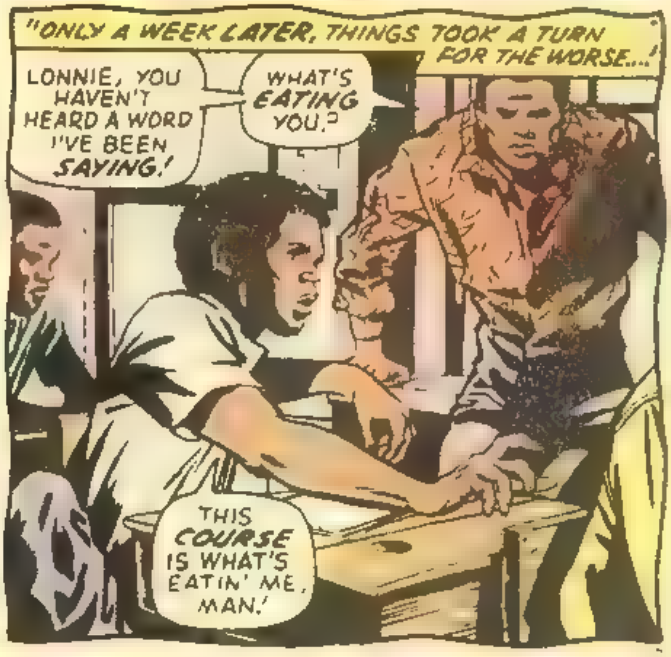
BILLY! GET UP, BILLY! DON'T LET 'EM SCUM ON YOU--!
YOU HEARD THE KID, BILLY-BOY!
WHY DON'TCHA LEARN US ALL A LESSON?
NO! I DID MY SHARE OF FIGHTIN'--AN' I KNOW WHAT TOTIN' A WEAPON CAN DO TO A MAN!
I'M THRU WITH BLOODSHED--IN RICE PADDIES OR IN HARLEM!
YEAH? WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE ALL THRU SHEDDIN' OTHER PEOPLE'S BLOOD, UNCLE TOM, BUT--
NO!
YOU HEARD THE LAD, MY FRIEND! HE SAID NO!
HUH?!
HEY! IT'S--THE PANTHER!!
BUTT OUTTA THIS ONE, BABY--YOU AINT GOT NO RIGHT--!
RIGHT? YOU DARE SPEAK OF MEN'S RIGHTS--WHILE YOUR EVERY GESTURE IS A MENACE--YOUR EVERY WORD A THREAT?
HERE! SPEAK TO YOUR FELLOW THUNDER-BOLTS ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS!
WHOMP!
YOU ARE BOTH CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH!

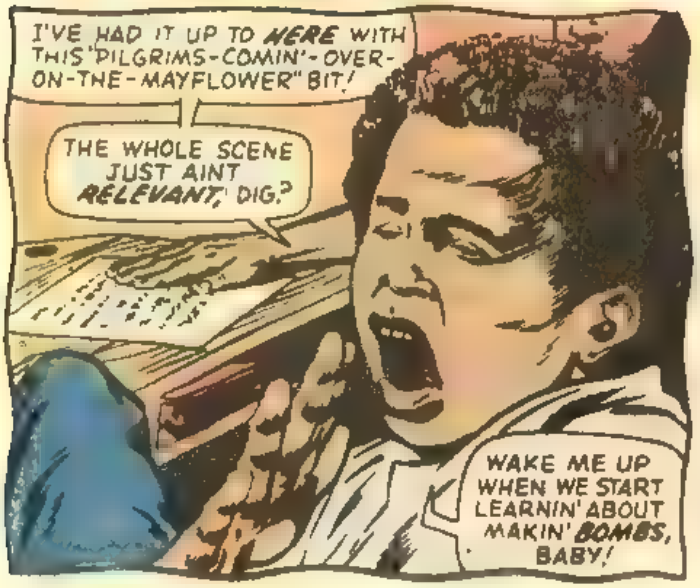
TAKE 'IM, CLYDE, SHOW 'IM HE CAN'T MESS WITH THE THUNDERBOLTS!
CONSIDER 'IM SHOWED, TURK! WHEN I'M THRU WITH 'IM, HE'LL--
WHUMMFF!
HOLY JOE! THAT AVENGER'S WORTH A WHOLE REGIMENT!
COMING FROM YOU, SOLDIER, I SHALL CONSIDER THAT A COMPLIMENT!
WELL, EVEN A REGIMENT CAN GET ITSELF CREAMED, PIG!
NO DOUBT IT CAN, MY UNCOORDINATED FRIEND...
...BUT IF SO, IT WILL NOT BE BY A FOURSOME WHOSE IDEA OF A FAIR FIGHT IS TO GANG UP ON A PEACE-LOVING VETERAN AND A 15-YEAR-OLD!
HMMM...IT APPEARS MY LONG-WINDED SPEECH DROVE OFF YOUR BACK-UP MEN!
AND, I AM SURE YOU'D PREFER TO JOIN THEM....!
WHAK
LET'S SPLIT! WE'LL SETTLE UP WITH UNCLE TOM LATER!

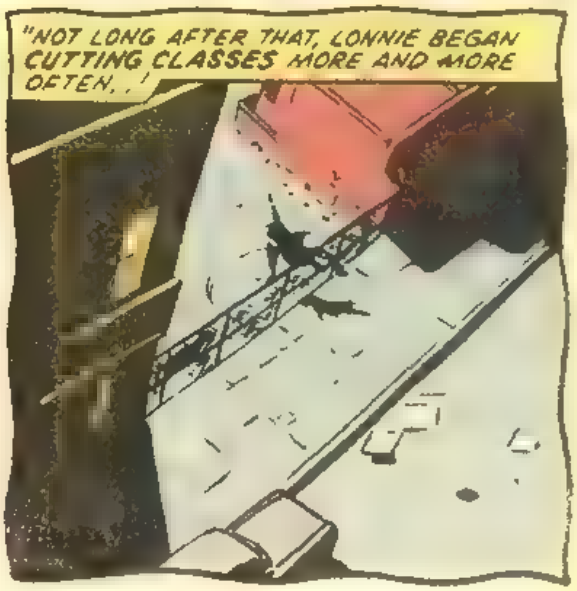

THANKS A HEAP, FELLA!
MY PLEASURE! THOSE VERMIN AREN'T INTERESTED IN BLACK POWER ONLY IN THUNDERBOLT POWER!
QUITE A BIG BROTHER YOU HAVE HERE, SON!
RIGHT ON, PANTHER!

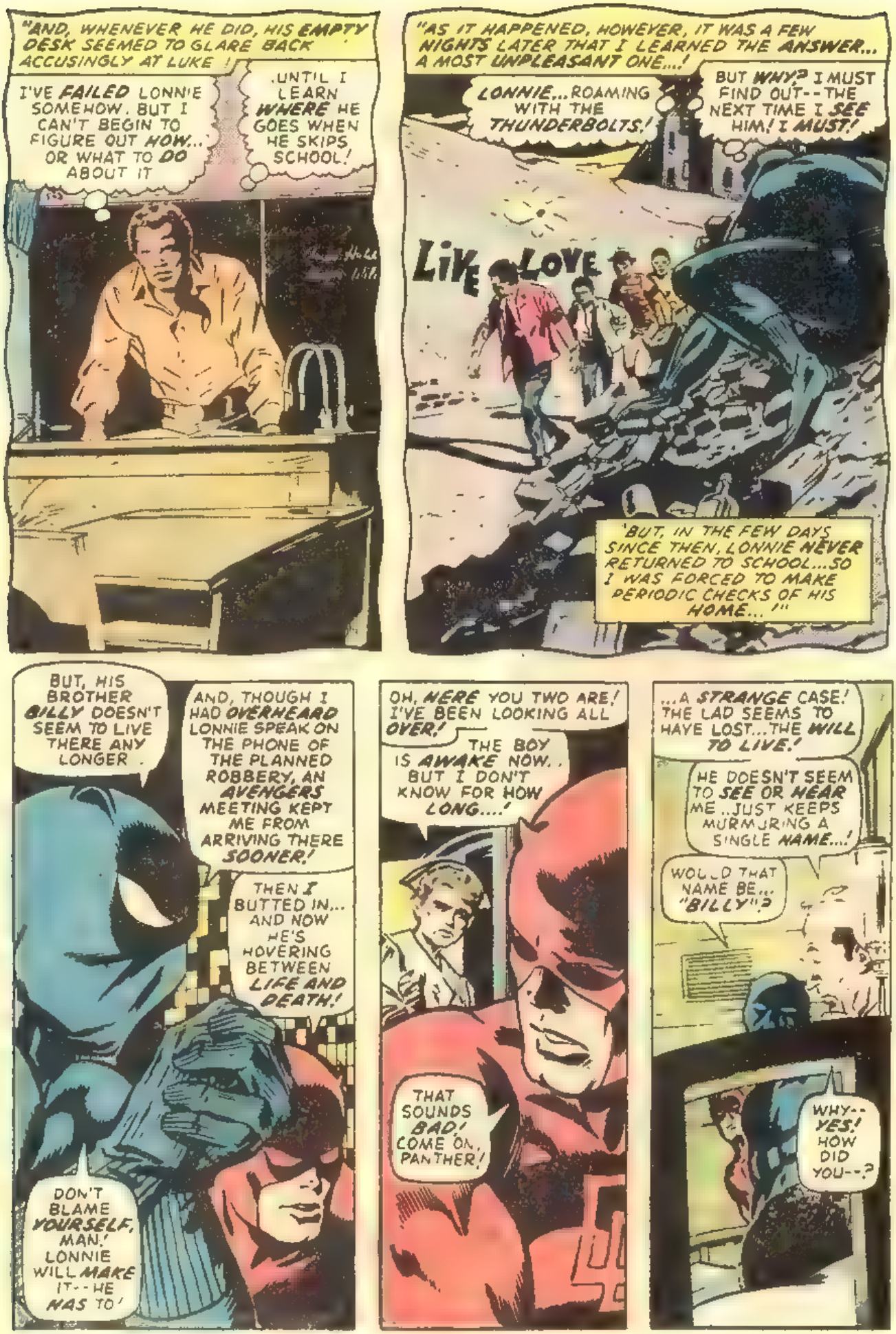

...INCIDENTALLY, DD, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...
I MIGHT AS WELL ADD THAT I AM THE TEACHER NAMED LUKE CHARLES!
I MIGHT HAVE SUSPECTED AS MUCH! BUT WHY TELL ME?
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU ARE, IN REALITY, MATT MURDOCK!

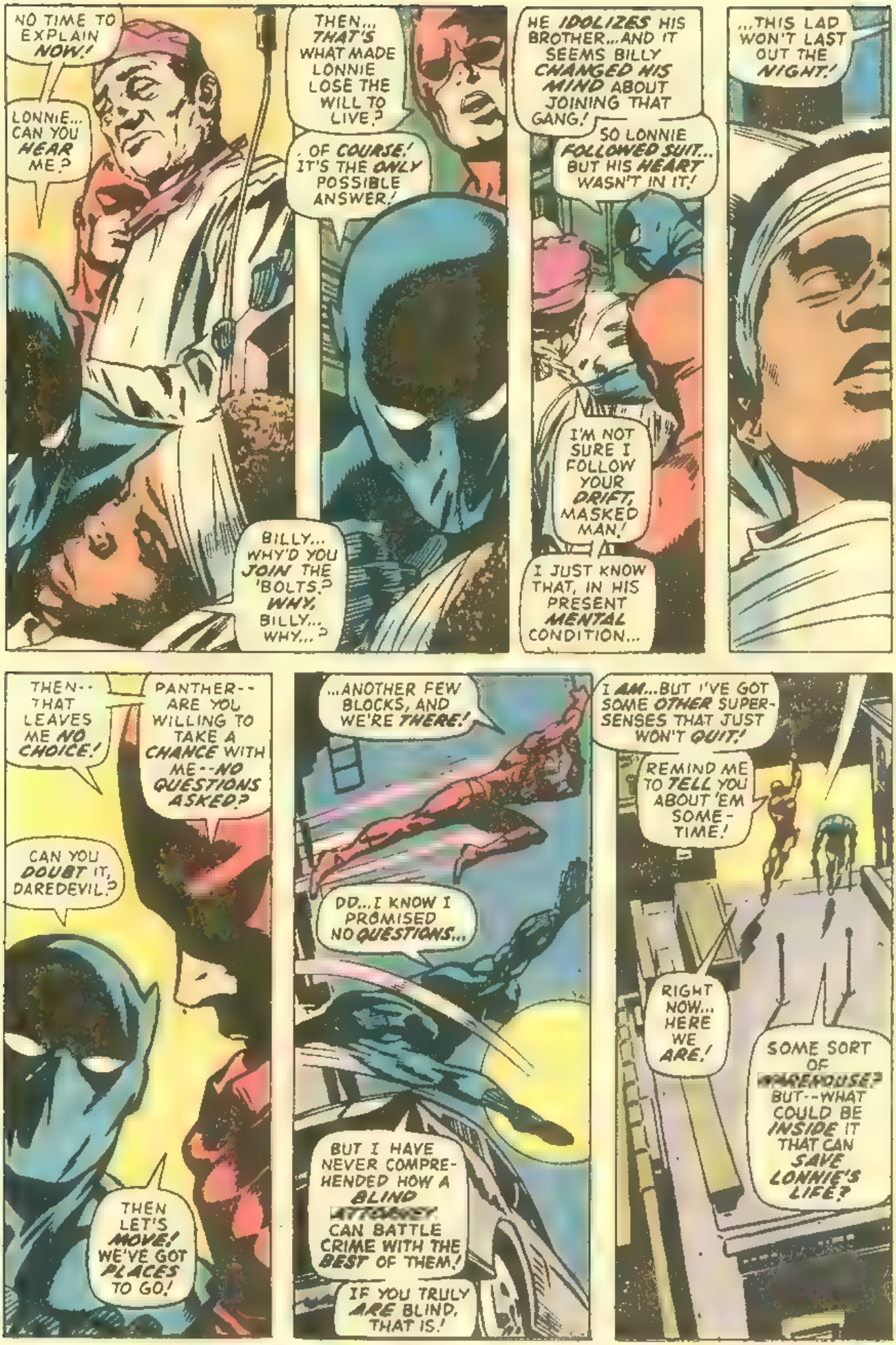

WHAT? YOU KNOW!?
BUT HOW THE DEVIL--?
NOW, LISTEN TO THE END OF MY STORY--!
I SHADOWED YOU ONCE-- WHEN WE WERE BATTLING STARR SAXON!*
*IN DD #52! --STAN.

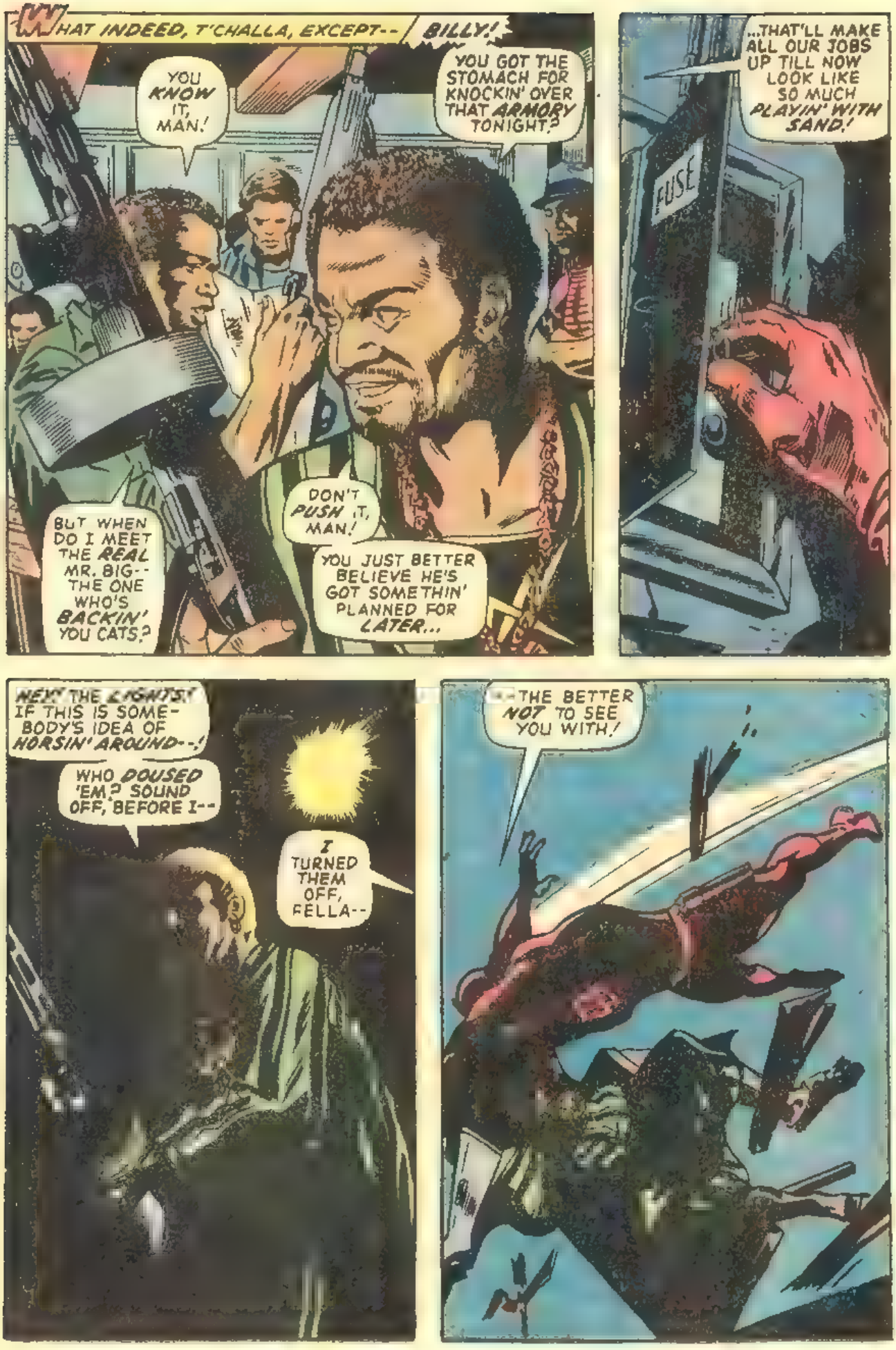

"ONLY A WEEK LATER, THINGS TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...!
LONNIE, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE BEEN SAYING!
WHAT'S EATING YOU?
THIS COURSE IS WHAT'S EATIN' ME, MAN!


I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH THIS 'PILGRIMS-COMIN'-OVER-ON-THE-MAYFLOWER" BIT!
THE WHOLE SCENE JUST AINT RELEVANT, DIG?
WAKE ME UP WHEN WE START LEARNIN' ABOUT MAKIN' BOMBS, BABY!


"NOT LONG AFTER THAT, LONNIE BEGAN CUTTING CLASSES MORE AND MORE OFTEN...!


"AND, WHENEVER HE DID, HIS EMPTY DESK SEEMED TO GLARE BACK ACCUSINGLY AT LUKE!
I'VE FAILED LONNIE SOMEHOW. BUT I CAN'T BEGIN TO FIGURE OUT HOW... OR WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
...UNTIL I LEARN WHERE HE GOES WHEN HE SKIPS SCHOOL!
"AS IT HAPPENED, HOWEVER, IT WAS A FEW NIGHTS LATER THAT I LEARNED THE ANSWER... A MOST UNPLEASANT ONE...!
LONNIE...ROAMING WITH THE THUNDERBOLTS!
BUT WHY? I MUST FIND OUT--THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM! I MUST!
LIFE LOVE
'BUT, IN THE FEW DAYS SINCE THEN, LONNIE NEVER RETURNED TO SCHOOL...SO I WAS FORCED TO MAKE PERIODIC CHECKS OF HIS HOME...!"
BUT, HIS BROTHER BILLY DOESN'T SEEM TO LIVE THERE ANY LONGER.
AND, THOUGH I HAD OVERHEARD LONNIE SPEAK ON THE PHONE OF THE PLANNED ROBBERY, AN AVENGERS MEETING KEPT ME FROM ARRIVING THERE SOONER!
THEN I BUTTED IN... AND NOW HE'S HOVERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MAN! LONNIE WILL MAKE IT--HE HAS TO!
OH, HERE YOU TWO ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER!
THE BOY IS AWAKE NOW.. BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG....'
THAT SOUNDS BAD! COME ON, PANTHER!
...A STRANGE CASE! THE LAD SEEMS TO HAVE LOST...THE WILL TO LIVE.'
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO SEE OR HEAR ME..JUST KEEPS MURMURING A SINGLE NAME...!
WOULD THAT NAME BE... "BILLY"?
WHY--YES! HOW DID YOU--?


NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW!
LONNIE... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
THEN... THAT'S WHAT MADE LONNIE LOSE THE WILL TO LIVE?
, OF COURSE! IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER!
BILLY... WHY'D YOU JOIN THE 'BOLTS? WHY, BILLY... WHY...?
HE IDOLIZES HIS BROTHER...AND IT SEEMS BILLY CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT JOINING THAT GANG!
SO LONNIE FOLLOWED SUIT... BUT HIS HEART WASN'T IN IT!
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOUR DRIFT, MASKED MAN!
I JUST KNOW THAT, IN HIS PRESENT MENTAL CONDITION...
...THIS LAD WON'T LAST OUT THE NIGHT!
THEN-- THAT LEAVES ME NO CHOICE!
PANTHER-- ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH ME--NO QUESTIONS ASKED?
CAN YOU DOUBT IT, DAREDEVIL?
THEN LET'S MOVE! WE'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!
...ANOTHER FEW BLOCKS, AND WE'RE THERE!
DD...I KNOW I PROMISED NO QUESTIONS...
BUT I HAVE NEVER COMPREHENDED HOW A BLIND ATTORNEY CAN BATTLE CRIME WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
IF YOU TRULY ARE BLIND, THAT IS!
I AM...BUT I'VE GOT SOME OTHER SUPER-SENSES THAT JUST WON'T QUIT!
REMIND ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT 'EM SOMETIME!
RIGHT NOW... HERE WE ARE!
SOME SORT OF WAREHOUSE? BUT--WHAT COULD BE INSIDE IT THAT CAN SAVE LONNIE'S LIFE?


WHAT INDEED, T'CHALLA, EXCEPT--
BILLY!
YOU KNOW IT, MAN!
YOU GOT THE STOMACH FOR KNOCKIN' OVER THAT ARMORY TONIGHT?
BUT WHEN DO I MEET THE REAL MR. BIG--THE ONE WHO'S BACKIN' YOU CATS?
DON'T PUSH IT, MAN!
YOU JUST BETTER BELIEVE HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' PLANNED FOR LATER...
FUSE
...THAT'LL MAKE ALL OUR JOBS UP TILL NOW LOOK LIKE SO MUCH PLAYIN' WITH SAND!
NEW THE EXPERTS! IF THIS IS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF HORSIN' AROUND--!
WHO DOUSED 'EM? SOUND OFF, BEFORE I--
I TURNED THEM OFF, BELLA--
--THE BETTER NOT TO SEE YOU WITH!

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, MY FRIEND!
THAT COULD BE TRUE! THEN AGAIN, THERE MIGHT BE THREE OF US--OR EVEN FOUR!
OR MAYBE ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH--WHILE YOU CREEPS ARE PLAYING BLIND MAN'S BLUFF!
THE WAY DAREDEVIL MOVES IN THE DARK--EVEN MORE SURELY THAN I CAN--
THE SENSES HE MENTIONED MUST TRULY BE BEYOND ALL BELIEF!
BRAKKA-BRAKKA
UNNHH!--LOOK OUT, YOU CATS! THERE'S TWO OF 'EM--!
FACT IS, DARKNESS IS THE ONLY TRUMP-CARD WE'VE GOT!
OTHERWISE--THE PANTHER AND I ARE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED!
HMMM...REINFORCEMENTS FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER!
YOU 'BOLTS ARE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMIES!
I GOT 'IM, LEADERMAN! I--
MMFFF!--
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S IN HERE WITH US--OR HOW YOU CAN TELL WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN WHEN WE CAN'T--
BUT YOU GOTTA GO, BABY--AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY CART YOU AWAY IN A BOX--
--IF I GOTTA FILL EVERYBODY IN THE ROOM WITH LEAD!!
KBAM! KBAM!

THAT LAST SHOT MISSED ME BY INCHES!
BUT-- BLAST IT-- I TWISTED MY ANKLE, EVADING IT!
KPHING!
DD--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH? DAREDEVIL? IS HE IN ON THIS?
DON'T SWEAT IT, LEADER-MAN!
YOU TAKE CARE OF DAREDEVIL-- WE GOT THIS ONE!
HAVE WE EVER!!
I WAS CARELESS! THESE TWO LOCATED ME-- WHEN I CRIED OUT!
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BIG MAN--
BUT, IF YOU'RE PALLIN' AROUND WITH THAT DAREDEVIL CAT -
--YOU AIN'T NO BROTHER OF THE THUNDER-BOLTS!

SLAM!
YOU MAY FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE, GOOD MEN AND TRUE...

...BUT I TAKE THAT AS A DISTINCT COMPLI-MENT!
THOM

YOU WON'T TAKE NUTHIN', BABY-- NEVER AGAIN!
'CAUSE, WHILE YOU WAS SCUFFLIN' WITH MY MEN THERE--I FOUND THIS!
KLIK!
NOW LET'S JUST SNEAK A PEEK AND SEE WHO--

WELL WELL WELL, IF IT AINT-- THE PANTHER!
THE ORIGINAL ESTABLISH-MENT BLACK MAN HIMSELF!
DON'T TRY TO PALM OFF THAT "ESTABLISH-MENT" JARGON ON ME, FRIEND!
I'M OLD ENOUGH TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DISSENTER AND A CRIMINAL!
CUT THE SERMON, MAN--!

I KNOW YOU AINT HERE ALL BY YOUR LONESOME!
WHERE'S DARE-DEVIL? SPIT IT OUT, BEFORE I--
STILL COULDN'T RUN--FAST ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM!
BUT MAYBE-- MY BILLY CLUB--!

A QUAFF OF QUIXOTIC QUIPS TO QUENCH YOUR QUAKES AND QUANDARIES!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, gang. Big news this month. It seems you just can't keep a good writer down. Remember when Rascally Roy Thomas gave up his editorship last year because he wanted to return to scriptwriting? Well, it looks like Marvel-ous Marv Wolfman got bitten by the same bug. Ol' Marv is swapping our editor's chair for a full-time writing schedule here at the bullpen. But not to worry, chappies. With all the indescribable talent running rampant in the hallowed halls of Marvel, we're sure to come up with another winner! In fact, we've already practically decided who our editorial ramrod will be—but, just to keep you guessing, we'll announce the big decision next ish! We'll tell you this much, however—you'll flip when you learn the name! Anyway, how can we go wrong with the greatest group of artists, writers, and editors ever assembled! With a staff like ours, no wonder they call me Smilin' Stan! And, if all that still isn't enough, Larrupin' Larry Lieber, who gave his all for Atlas Comics not long ago (remember them?), has also come aboard to handle the issues which we produce for an ever-growing army of Marvel fanatics in Great Britain. Wouldja believe they're on sale **weekly** over there, so we're bettin' that Larry'll be kinda busy. And, speaking of keeping busy, there's a great new book on sale, brought to you by the ever-lovin' Simon & Schuster book publishers, called THE MIGHTY MARVEL SUPERHEROES FUN BOOK. It sells for $2.95, and it's a giant collection of puzzles, riddles, and games, all based on the stories and characters in Marvel Comics! Every page contains brand-new material, it'll keep you busy for hours, and you'll find it at bookstores, airports, and wherever strictly sensational books are sold. It's bound to be a treasured collectors item—after all, it's got the longest title this side of Yancy Street! And now, without any further ado (we used up all our ado last week), I'll turn you over to our Armadillos, with this one last admonishment—never tangle with a ten-ton truck, 'cause it might belong to Howard the Duck!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Rascally ROY THOMAS dropped into the Bullpen the other day, fresh from a sojourn to the ever-popular Pacific Coast. As he's wont to do, our favorite Editor Emeritus came back bursting with new ideas—not the least of which is a planned relocation to Los Angeles, where he'll join JACK "King" KIRBY and Madman MIKE ROYER as a premiere member of Southern California's Bullpen West. We said Roy was exploding with ideas—and one of those ideas is a brand new Giant-Size title called "WHAT IF ...?" Now, we've been given to hyperbole in the past, but this time it's safe to say that "WHAT IF ...?" is one of the most **exciting** concepts to come down the pike since THE FANTASTIC FOUR. In fact, it is the FF, and SPIDER-MAN, and HULK, and—aw, nuts. Just wait till you see it, compadre. It's a knockout.

ITEM! Speaking about Bullpen West reminds us that we've managed to talk JACK KIRBY into lending his titantic touch to yet another of our cavorting characters—one the King designed way back when he and Smilin' STAN LEE produced our fabulous Fantastic Foursome. We won't tell you which book Jack is going to take over (we have to have **some** secrets, don't we?), but we will tell you this—it's going to be King working with King. And if that piques your interest just a little, old friend, hang in there. We'll present a stainless steel, platinum-plated **no-prize** to the first Marvelite who guesses **which** of our heroes we mean. No peeking now, effendi!

ITEM! Now here's a newsflash, also from Bullpen West, San Francisco division. Stainless STEVE ENGELHART, whom we all know and love as steady scripter of DOCTOR STRANGE, is moonlighting as a professional astrologer. It seems Steve has always had a passing interest in the stars, and his involvement with the adventures of the Master of the Mystic Arts brought that involvement to a climax. For the past few months, in between bouts on the AVENGERS and the aforementioned good Doctor, our boy on the Bay has been preparing horoscopes commercially. (Which begs the question—when are we gonna get ours, amigo?) So, if you're ever up Frisco way and you're curious about your future—Stainless Steve is definitely the man to see. And that's the truth.

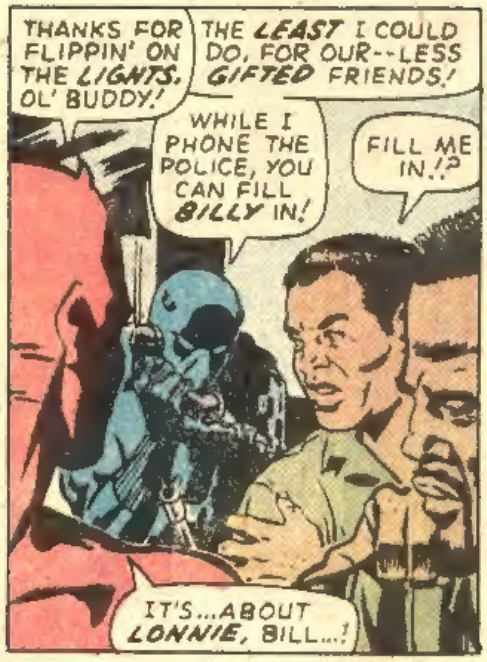
ITEM! Every Friday a gang from the Bullpen haunts the nearby Brillo Coffee House during lunch, and on various Fridays this menage includes almost everyone who strolls through the office—from Lively LEN WEIN to Dapper DON PERLIN, not to mention our powerhouse editorial staff and our boyish Editor Emeritus. Last Friday, while we were all waiting for the Brillo's famed Bunsen Burner Burger, we pulled out our advance copies of GIANT-SIZE CONAN, GIANT-SIZE TWO-IN-ONE, and (of course) GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN. Well, friend, the burgers may have been rancid and rotten, but our novel-length mags made up for all the heartburn. We could tell you how wonderful they are, but we couldn't do them justice without stretching your capacious credibility. We promise you this, though—they're the best GIANT-SIZE books we're publishing this month! 'Nuff said!

ITEM! Before we forget (or get squeezed out of space), we should mention that STEVE "Baby" GERBER has received permission to sell a HOWARD THE DUCK FOR PRESIDENT button to all your faithful feather-followers. It's available for $1.00 plus 25¢ for postage and handling, and you don't write us—you write him, care of MAD GENIUS ASSOCIATES, Room 806, 850 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019.

And before we forget—don't miss our Super-Bicentennial Special, on sale in June! 'Nuff said!

See you next month, True Believer!

WAIT A MINUTE! RIGHT NEXT TO ME--
THE SOUND OF A SAFETY CATCH BEING UNLOCKED!
CLICK
AND--I'M BETTING I KNOW WHO'S ON THE BUSINESS END OF THAT CARBINE!
BROTHER BILLY!!
OKAY, LEADER-MAN--REACH FOR IT!
WHA--?
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, BILLY!
SWAK!
YEEOW!
SO YOU'RE THE PIG, HUH, BILLY-BOY?
WELL, IF THEY GOT ANY MEDALS FOR YOU--THEY CAN PIN 'EM ON YOUR CASKET!
WHERE DO YOU DIG UP THOSE LINES, FELLA? THE LATE, LATE SHOW?
BILLY--YOU OKAY, GUY?
BELIEVE IT, DD!
JUST A FLESH WOUND --NOTHING A BAND AID WON'T TAKE CARE OF!
HEY! THERE GO THE LIGHTS!
YOU! WE SHOULD'A KNOWN!
BUT YOU DIDN'T, MAN--AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!


THANKS FOR FLIPPIN' ON THE LIGHTS, OL' BUDDY!
THE LEAST I COULD DO, FOR OUR--LESS GIFTED FRIENDS!
WHILE I PHONE THE POLICE, YOU CAN FILL BILLY IN!
FILL ME IN!?
IT'S...ABOUT LONNIE, BILL...!

THEN, ONE FINAL COMMANDEERED CAB, AND...
HOSPITAL
WE CAN'T BE TOO LATE! WE...JUST CAN'T...!

...THEN, YOU NEVER DID TURN ROTTEN ON ME, BILLY? IT WAS ALL AN ACT?
YOU GOT IT TAMBO, LITTLE BROTHER!
THE DAY AFTER THE 'BOLTS JUMPED US, I WENT TO WORK FOR THE D.A.!

I...I THOUGHT... THERE WASN'T NUTHIN' WORTH LIVIN' FOR...!
WELL, THERE IS, KID...'CAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN...!
LET'S GO, PANTHER! JUDGING BY THAT SOLID HEART-BEAT...
I'D SAY WE CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT LONNIE!

...SO THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THAT HEIST TONIGHT!
BILLY TIPPED YOU OFF... AS MATT MURDOCK!
BUT THE D.A. AND I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE WHOLE GANG JUST YET IF WE COULD HELP IT!
WE KNOW SOMETHING BIG IS IN THE WIND...AND WE HOPED TO FIND OUT WHAT BEFORE WE MADE OUR MOVE!
STILL, MY OLD FRIEND WILL APPROVE OF WHAT I DID TONIGHT--'CAUSE WE COULDN'T RISK LONNIE'S LIFE!

JUST THE SAME, BEFORE LONG WE'LL FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND THE THUNDERBOLTS--OR WE'LL DIE TRYING!
NOW C'MON... TREAT YOU TO A COKE!
JUST LET ME SLIP MY PANTHER MASK BACK ON, MATT!
LUNCHEONETTE
Coca-Cola
AND DON'T KEEP ME OUT TOO LATE, HEAR?
NEXT: WIND-EAGLE in FLIGHT!